

CHROMOSOME STUDIES IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN FLORA: INTRODUCTION AND FORMAT

The *Journal of South African Botany* is instituting a series designed to provide a medium for the publication of data on the karyotypes of Southern African plants. The aim of this series is to provide information not merely on chromosome number, but also on chromosome morphology at as detailed a level as may reasonably be achieved.

Contributions to the series are welcome. There is no prescribed length or order for the articles, but contributors should adhere to the following format:

SCIENTIFIC NAME (including author citation)

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

MATERIAL

METHOD OF PREPARATION

OBSERVATIONS

REFERENCES

The general style of the articles should conform to the first of the series, which is the succeeding article in this volume. In particular, contributors should note the following:

The MATERIAL section should indicate the origin of the material (preferably wild collections) and include a reference to a herbarium specimen deposited in a herbarium of a recognised botanical institution using current *Index Herbariorum* abbreviations. Such specimens should preferably be of the actual plants studied and should be cited under personal collecting numbers where possible.

The METHOD OF PREPARATION should state concisely the technique used. It is strongly recommended that root tip rather than meiotic material be used, as the latter conveys only limited information on chromosome size and morphology.

OBSERVATIONS are always considered useful, but should be concise. Laboratories in which chromosome banding techniques are practised are encouraged to submit banding studies as part of this section.

Articles should include one high quality photograph of the mitotic chromosomes of each of the species considered, on which should be provided a scale lines of 10 μ length. In order to provide an accurate impression of the differences in chromosome size between species, the size at which photographs will be printed will wherever possible correspond to a final magnification of $\times 2\ 000$, i.e. with the scale line measuring 20 mm across.

Photographs should be supplemented by an idiogram of the haploid complement, in cases where the size of the chromosomes allows such to be constructed with accuracy. The style of the idiogram should be one in which the centromeres are aligned at the same level. The chromosomes should be arranged in descending order of length, except in the case of nucleolar chromosomes. The latter should preferably be placed at the end of the complement, but in any case where evident should be clearly indicated.

Camera lucida drawings of scattered chromosomes will not be accepted as these convey nothing which cannot better be gained from a good photograph and idiogram.

REFERENCES should wherever possible include previous work on the karyotypes. Journals should be abbreviated according to the *World list of Scientific Periodicals*. References may be combined at the end of an article, if preferable in the interest of brevity.

Those wishing to contribute less detailed cytological data are referred to the parallel series in this journal: *Chromosome Numbers of Southern African Plants*.